

Qualified ENE Members

Chambers, Susan: Attorney, Mediator

Horrisberger, Paul: Retired Guardian ad Litem

Finley, Gail: Guardian ad Litem, Mediator, Custody Evaluator, Parenting Time Consultant, Parenting Time Expeditor

Manahan, James: Attorney, Mediator, Arbitrator

Panowitsch, Henry: Retired Psychologist

Clark, Tracy: Mediator

Gislason, Daniel: Mediator, Arbitrator

Kircher, Michael: Attorney

Harrleson, George: Retired Judge

Larson, Sara: Guardian ad Litem, Mediator, Custody Evaluator, Parenting Time Expeditor

Runchey, Barb: Attorney, Mediator

Kramer, Thomas: Attorney, Mediator

Wacker, Jody: Guardian ad Litem, Custody Evaluator, Child Care Support Specialist

ENE Specifications

Teams should consist of one legal and one child related specialist.

ENE Supplemental Information

- Additional travel fee will be incurred for longer distances.

State statistics show on a state wide basis
ENE has a 70% to 75% settlement rate.
Cite: January 2011 Minnesota Lawyers

To schedule an ENE
please contact

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Fifth Judicial District
ENE Collaborative Resource
Committee Member
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Early Neutral Evaluation



*Helping Parents Resolve
Disputes*

EARLY NEUTRAL EVALUATION COLLABORATIVE RESOURCE
COMMITTEE



Together we can make it work

What Is ENE?

Early Neutral Evaluation (ENE) is a confidential process that can help parties reach settlements early on in divorce and custody matters. Parties who agree will be referred to ENE by the judge at the Initial Case Management Conference.

Who may participate?

Divorcing parents

Parents who are not married

Parties filing for divorce or custody

Parties who already have a decree but have a dispute.

Early Resolution

ENE can usually be scheduled within 7-14 days of the Initial Case Management Conference by contacting ENECRC.

Team members block their calendar for easier accessibility.

Who Conducts ENE?

A team of two neutrals, one male and one female consisting of one attorney and one child related specialist, conduct the ENE. Neutrals must be experienced in divorce and custody matters and have completed specific ENE training.

Cost

The fee for ENE is \$300 per parent per session. **ENE fees are due at the beginning of each session.** Additional travel fees for longer distances will be incurred. ENECRC has an *IFP* reduced fee program. For more information please contact ENECRC.

How long does ENE take?

A typical ENE session takes 3-5 hours depending on the issues involved. On rare occasions an ENE may require more than one session.

What are the advantages of ENE?

1. Children: ENE benefits children by helping their parents quickly resolve their conflict. When parents are in conflict over custody or parenting time children suffer emotionally. The sooner contested court cases are completed, the sooner children can begin to regain a sense of stability.

2. Families Know Best:

ENE helps parents to reach a settlement rather than having the court decide for them what is best for their family.

3. Time: ENE provides the parties a chance to settle their dispute quickly, allowing the family to begin the process of moving forward.

4. Cost: Family Court disputes can be lengthy and expensive. Parties who are able to reach an agreement early in the process may save legal fees and other costs such as custody evaluations.

Parents' Presentation

The parties should come prepared to present their issues and concerns on custody and parenting time:

1. What are the issues and concerns that prevent you from reaching an agreement?
2. What do you think should be the custody/parenting time arrangement. Give reasons?
3. What is the current parenting arrangement?
4. What is your proposed parenting plan?
5. Why is the plan in the best interest of your children?